

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 191824 TOSEC 080346
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER
S/S RPERITO

-----006870 122322Z /65
O 122245Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 191824 TOSEC 080346

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS-TRATTNER

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 12, 1977

1. THERE WERE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTED INVOLVE-
MENT OF WIFE OF U.S. DIPLOMAT IN DEMONSTRATION IN SOUTH
AFRICA (WHICH ON FRONT PAGE OF AUGUST 12 WASHPOST). I
BEGAN RESPONSE BY SAYING I WAS NOT AWARE SOUTH AFRICAN

GOVERNMENT HAD PROTESTED THIS REPORTED INCIDENT, BUT THAT
IN ANY EVENT WE HAD GIVEN THEM THE FACTS IN EFFORT TO

SET RECORD STRAIGHT. IT IS INCORRECT THAT MRS. (THOMAS)
WILLIAMS, WIFE OF U.S. CONSUL IN CAPETOWN, WAS IN-
VOLVED IN DEMONSTRATION AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 10 IN MODDER-
DAM WHICH PROTESTED GOVERNMENT'S DEMOLITION OF BLACK

MIGRANT WORKERS' HOMES. WHILE SHE WAS THERE THAT DAY, SHE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 191824 TOSEC 080346

WENT THERE IN MORNING INDEPENDENTLY ON HER OWN INITIATIVE
TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY OF HER ACQUAINTANCE IN CON-
NECTION WITH THAT FAMILY'S FORCED MOVE. SHE WAS NOT PRE-

SENT WHEN GOVERNMENT WORKERS BEGAN TO KNOCK DOWN WORK-
ERS' HOMES SHORTLY AFTER NOON, AND THUS NOT AT THE SCENE
AT THE TIME OF AFTERNOON CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND

MIGRANTS ATTEMPTING OBSTRUCT DEMOLITION. IN THE PAST SHE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH MULTIRACIAL GROUP WHICH HAS SOUGHT TO AID MIGRANT WORKERS; WHILE MEMBERS OF THAT GROUP MAY HAVE SEEN PART OF GROUP OF WHITES IN DEMONSTRATION AUGUST 10, MRS. WILLIAMS WAS NOT AMONG THEM. NO CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO RECALLING WILLIAMS. I DECLINED COMMENT ON REMARKS TO PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO MRS. WILLIAMS. ASKED IF WE LOOK FAVORABLY ON HER ACTIVITY, OR IF WE ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE DIPLOMATS AND FAMILIES WHERE INVOL-

VED IN WHAT MIGHT BE SEEN AS POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN A COUNTRY IS CONCERNED, I OFFERED PERSONAL, NOT OFFICIAL, VIEW THAT WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES WHICH AMOUNT TO PARTICIPATION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY OTHER THAN OBVIOUS CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES.

2. TO QUESTION TAKEN IN PREVIOUS DAY'S BRIEFING WHETHER WE HAVE ENGAGED IN CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON POSSIBILITY OF UNILATERALLY NULLIFYING MUTUAL DEFENSE

TREATY WITH TAIWAN, I SAID WE HAD NOT. ASKED IF WE STILL STAND BY TREATY, I REPLIED THAT WE DID.

3. ASKED WHETHER NKOMO WOULD MEET WITH ANY DEPARTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 191824 TOSEC 080346

OFFICIALS, I SAID MY UNDERSTANDING WAS HE WOULD MEET, AT HIS REQUEST, WITH SECRETARY ON MONDAY AUGUST 15.

4. ON SUBJECT OF CASTRO-CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 80-ODD AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING IN CUBA MAY RETURN WITH FAMILIES TO U.S., I SAID I COULD NOT GO INTO ANY DETAIL OF STEPS WE ARE CONSIDERING TO FACILITATE THEIR RETURN UNTIL WE HAD TALKED WITH CHURCH AND KNOW BETTER WHAT HIS IDEAS ARE ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES. I NOTED THAT AMCITS THEMSELVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FREE TO LEAVE, BUT THAT WE REGARD AS A VERY WELCOME DEVELOPMENT THE NEWS THAT FAMILIES WILL NOW BE ALLOWED TO RETURN WITH THEM.

5. NEW SUBJECT. HERewith FULL STORY OF TRANSMISSION OF WIRE SERVICE STORIES FILED FROM PLANE AUGUST 11. ON NOTIFICATION EARLY MORNING AUGUST 11 AT HOME THAT STORIES WOULD BE COMING IN, I ASKED OP CENTER TO TELEPHONE US IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF EACH SO WE COULD PASS QUICKLY TO BUREAUS HERE. THREE MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED IN OP CENTER IN QUICK SUCCESSION---UPI AT 1:48 P.M., AP AT 1:49, AND REUTER AT 1:51. NO NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT MADE TO US, DESPITE PHONE CALLS TO CHECK. WE FOUND AP STORY IN OUR

OP CENTER BOX AROUND 3 P.M. AND TELEPHONED IT TO AP. UPI

STORY CAME TO US IN MORNING TAKE AUGUST 12 AND WAS PASSED
TO UPI; WE DID NOT FIND THIS STORY IN OUR BOX IN ANY OF
SEVERAL RUNS DURING AFTERNOON AUGUST 11; OP CENTER ADVISES
IT WAS PASSED TO US SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT. REUTER
STORY WAS NOT DELIVERED TO US AT ALL; OP CENTER HAS EXPRE-
SSED ITS REGRET. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE191824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHTRATTNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0848
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770865/aaaacdcml.tcl
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 863af25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1612070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 12, 1977
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/863af25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009